



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507

# NEWS

For Immediate Release  
September 25, 2003  
Ray Garibay  
State Statistician  
P.O. Box 609  
Olympia, Washington 98507

(360)902-1940 & Fax (360)902-2091

## Value of 2002 Agricultural Commodities Exceeded \$5.5 Billion Value of Apple Crop Record High

According to figures released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Washington Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS), the value of agricultural production for 2002 held steady at \$5.53 billion after three years of consecutive increases.

"Overall, Washington farmers fared a little better than the rest of the nation," says Ray Garibay, director of WASS. "Nationally, farm cash receipts declined more than 3 percent between 2001 and 2002."

However, the state total masks the differences in value of production in various sectors of agriculture. Of the state's top five commodities, the value of apple and wheat production increased 14 percent and 26 percent, respectively, while the value of milk production dropped 19 percent, potatoes dropped 7 percent, and cattle and calves dropped 8 percent.

"The value of agricultural production is stable and consistent with the rest of the state's economy," says Valoria Loveland, director of the state Department of Agriculture. "Agriculture is the state's largest employer, providing jobs for 170,000 people and contributing almost \$29 billion - or 13 percent - to the state's economy."

The value of agricultural production in Washington reached its all time high of nearly \$5.9 billion in 1995. In the 1990s, revenues dropped because of increasing debt, changing market forces, and the Asian economic crisis that severely impacted agricultural exports. The low point was 1998. Since then the value of agricultural production has slowly improved.

**Top five:** The top five commodities had a combined value of \$3.2 billion, or 58 percent, of the total value for all agricultural commodities produced in Washington. Apples top the list with a value of production totaling \$1.02 billion. Milk ranked second with a value of \$674 million. Wheat moved up to third at \$537 million, and potatoes ranked fourth with production of \$513 million. Cattle and calves rounded out the top five with production of \$451 million.

**Record highs:** Record high values of production were recorded for apples, all grapes and all hay. Apples weighed in at \$1.02 billion, just \$3 million higher than its first billion-dollar crop in 1995. All grapes, totaling \$135 million, had its third record year in a row due to the increased value of the wine grape crop. Hay, totaling \$381 million, had its second record value in a row.

**Commodity Groups:** Looking at major groups of commodities, field crops such as wheat, hops, and potatoes had the highest value of production totaling \$1.82 billion, an increase of 4 percent over 2001. Fruits totaled \$1.46 billion, an increase of 11 percent. Vegetables totaled \$314 million compared to \$307 million in 2001. Berry crops totaled \$60 million, a decrease of 3 percent.

Livestock and livestock products totaled \$1.35 billion, a decrease of 14 percent. Specialty products, which include forest products, Christmas trees, floriculture, mushrooms, and nursery and other horticultural products, totaled \$522 million, a decrease of 2 percent.

## Value of Production and Government Payments, 1993-2002

Year	Field Crops	Fruits & Nuts	Commercial Vegetables	Berry Crops	Total Crops	Specialty Products 1/	Livestock & Products	Total Value of Prod.	Govt. Paymts.	Total Value 2/
Thousand Dollars										
1993	1,740,347	1,014,647	285,169	44,882	3,085,045	577,919	1,413,019	5,075,983	207,208	5,283,191
1994	1,621,096	1,061,984	302,586	59,359	3,045,025	648,367	1,441,631	5,135,023	152,840	5,287,863
1995	2,121,180	1,351,311	317,143	53,159	3,842,793	640,724	1,396,123	5,879,640	116,062	5,995,702
1996	2,082,200	1,232,736	307,635	54,431	3,677,002	575,704	1,459,933	5,712,639	155,364	5,868,003
1997	1,869,686	1,235,716	357,558	50,183	3,513,143	577,351	1,443,135	5,533,629	147,263	5,680,892
1998	1,648,007	1,080,581	357,016	40,405	3,126,009	583,185	1,540,559	5,249,753	260,524	5,510,277
1999	1,573,746	1,241,789	299,306	66,252	3,181,093	592,962	1,551,136	5,325,191	270,594	5,595,801
2000	1,697,526	1,172,932	320,095	46,679	3,237,232	588,739	1,515,104	5,341,075	352,503	5,695,796
2001	1,752,420	1,317,183	306,775	61,372	3,437,750	532,940	1,560,026	5,530,716	298,784	5,939,024
2002	1,824,722	1,461,311	314,248	59,781	3,660,062	521,987	1,348,847	5,530,896	214,138	5,745,034

1/ Includes forest products, Christmas trees, floriculture, nursery and other horticultural products, and mushrooms.

2/ Includes government payments.

# Top Forty Agricultural Commodities, WA

Commodity	Rank			Value of Production			Change 2002 vs 2001
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	
				Thousand Dollars			Percent
Apples	1	1	1	750,200	900,250	1,024,850	13.8%
Milk	2	2	2	715,904	827,100	674,400	-18.5%
Wheat, All	4	5	3	443,369	427,838	537,039	25.5%
Potatoes, Fall	5	3	4	446,250	552,240	512,820	-7.1%
Cattle & Calves	3	4	5	560,729	492,641	451,016	-8.4%
Hay, All	6	6	6	355,261	375,328	381,080	1.5%
Nursery & Greenhouse Products 1/	7	7	7	288,432	288,378	295,000	2.3%
Cherries, All	9	9	8	157,228	147,598	151,385	2.6%
Forest Products, Farm 2/	8	8	9	225,000	171,000	150,000	-11.8%
Grapes, All	10	10	10	126,760	133,071	134,605	1.2%
Pears, All	11	11	11	105,995	108,627	116,437	7.2%
Onions, All	17	14	12	64,605	64,037	100,976	57.7%
Hops	12	12	13	94,591	91,911	84,589	-8.0%
Sweet Corn, All	13	13	14	70,261	66,268	72,247	9.0%
Christmas Trees	15	16	15	60,000	59,000	60,000	1.7%
Eggs	16	15	16	59,759	62,501	55,445	-11.3%
Corn for Silage	21	18	17	40,755	48,360	53,040	9.7%
Barley	14	19	18	66,199	41,160	47,736	16.0%
Asparagus	18	17	19	54,876	48,910	44,893	-8.2%
Mint Oil	22	21	20	34,309	33,822	39,454	16.7%
Corn for Grain	19	23	21	46,805	26,752	38,570	44.2%
Red Raspberries	25	20	22	25,888	37,784	36,985	-2.1%
Peaches	29	26	23	21,096	18,588	22,217	19.5%
Aquaculture 3/	20	22	24	44,899	40,659	21,655	-46.7%
Kentucky Bluegrass Seed	26	25	25	25,840	22,875	17,550	-23.3%
Mushrooms	31	28	26	15,307	14,562	16,987	16.7%
Dry Edible Beans	33	32	27	11,712	12,022	16,564	37.8%
Haylage	27	24	28	21,924	26,075	14,384	-44.8%
Green Peas, Processing	28	27	29	24,638	18,148	13,804	-23.9%
Lentils	32	30	30	12,495	12,032	13,020	8.2%
Alfalfa Seed	30	29	31	16,875	13,800	12,360	-10.4%
Dry Edible Peas	35	36	32	8,190	7,936	10,241	29.0%
Trout 4/	37	35	33	6,477	8,271	9,690	17.2%
Blueberries	34	31	34	9,364	11,688	8,948	-23.4%
Carrots, Processing	23	33	35	10,560	10,512	8,730	-17.0%
Strawberries	36	37	36	6,776	6,944	8,262	19.0%
Sugarbeets 5/	24	34	37	26,901	10,247	5,670	-44.7%
Cranberries	-	-	38	3,679	3,838	5,614	46.3%
Apricots	40	40	39	5,508	4,072	5,509	35.3%
Wrinkled Seed Peas	39	38	40	5,095	5,913	4,140	-30.0%
<b>Total Top 40 Value of Production</b>				<b>\$5,070,512</b>	<b>\$5,252,758</b>	<b>\$5,279,172</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION</b>				<b>\$5,341,075</b>	<b>\$5,530,716</b>	<b>\$5,530,896</b>	<b>0.003%</b>

1/ Includes floriculture.

2/ Value of forest products sold from operations meeting the USDA farm definition.

3/ The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife annually calculates the value of aquaculture production. Aquaculture total excludes trout which is listed separately.

4/ Trout sold plus eggs sold.

5/ Value of production for sugarbeets based on previous year's price. Data for 2002 will be published in CROP VALUES, February 2004.

Washington Agricultural Statistics is our annual report of agriculture. The 2002 publication will be available only online this year, beginning in mid-October. This report will be available at our homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>